

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EARAPA
Dec 12, 1999, Leuven, Belgium
9:00 - 13:00

Attending: Herman van Coppenolle (chair), Ruud van Wijck, Anna Bianco, Franco Mauro, Maria Dinold, Hana Valkova, Ruta Adomaitiene, Gerd Hölter, Lars Kirsten, Peter Van de Vliet, J-C De Potter, Christina Evaggelinou, Dubravka Ciliga, Adri Vermeer, Nina Kahrs, Yves Vanlandewijck, Geoff Meek, Yves Eberhard, Bernard Robert, Claire Boursier, Marie-Martine Ramanantsoa, Alexandra Paglialunga, Pedro Ruiz, Veerle Wouters, Pauli Rintala (secretary).

1. Apologies

Klavina, Latvia; Klossewski, Poland; Rawicz-Mankowski, Poland; Reynders, The Netherlands; Halkier, Denmark; Doll-Tepper, Germany; Simons, Klekens, Reybrouck, Coudereau, Bosscher, Belgium; Spörri Kälin, Switzerland.

2. Minutes of the last meeting was approved.

3. Reports

3.1 President:

President Herman van Coppenolle had been very active in visiting several countries such as Brazil, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Germany, Finland. He also attended the funeral of Trevor Williams in December 1998.

3.2 Secretary:

Secretary Pauli Rintala attended the IFAPA General meeting in conjunction of ISAPA 99 Barcelona/Lleida. He also participated in Lithuanian Adapted Conference with the president.

3.3 Other Board members:

Christina Evaggelinou was pleased with 3rd European Conference of APA which she organized in Thessaloniki, Greece. The previous EARAPA meeting was held there in October 1998.

3.4 Vice President of IFAPA

Yves Vanlandewijck was concerned of the low membership of IFAPA which we all should promote since there is no separate EARAPA membership of its own. He stressed the fact of having our own EARAPA conference on the regular basis like NAFAPA in North America where we can promote APA (research and practice). Moreover his hope was to have a strategic plan for EARAPA.

3.5 Oral reports of representatives/key persons of each country:

Germany (Gudrun Doll-Tepper):

International Symposium of VISTA '99 was held in Cologne in conjunction with the opening of the IPC headquarters in Bonn, September 1999. World Summit on Physical Education was held in Berlin, November 1999. The National Information Center of Sports for Persons with Disabilities in Berlin is serving all organizations and individuals dealing with disabilities and sport. Parts of their database is on World Wide Web. A conference is planned in March 2000. (More details of this report can be asked from the secretary.)

UK (Geoff Meek):

Year 1999 was the first year there was no annual AREPA meeting due to David Sugden's move to Vice Chancellor and Trevor Williams's death.

Greece (Christina Evaggelinou):

The inter University Physical Education Graduate Program runs for the second year in Thessaloniki. One of the four disciplines of this program is Adapted Physical Activity. 2004 Paralympics organization is in progress: There is a lot of work and preparation. Greek association of APA is meeting and cooperates with Albania. Y. Vanlandewijck will run a seminar in Thessaloniki Spring 2000.

Norway (Nina Kahrs):

APA Master level program is running. Re-organization of the research groups in her university to disabled and life quality groups. Integration process going on in all levels of the sport system. Norwegian Association of APA meeting annually. Norway is helping underdeveloped countries in APA such as Uganda related to the Blind. (more details from the secretary)

Croatia (Dubravka Ciliga):

There are still a few persons in the field of APA. No association founded yet. Students getting knowledge through the Faculty. APA term is not used.

Croatia has about 4.7 million inhabitants and the number of the disabled people amounts 470.000. The entire sport and recreation for the disabled in Croatia have been organized through the Association for sport and recreation of the disabled of the city of Zagreb and through the Croatian Association for sport and recreation of the disabled.

In working with disabled, we find many specific qualities that differ from experiences of the Western world. It is not easy to make some models from the other country because the legislation concerning this issue in these countries is completely different.

There is no regular education of coaches for professionals in sport for disabled sport professionals. At the university of Zagreb at the faculty of Physical Education, students have possibility of getting education in kinesiotherapy as their major subject. It takes part in their last year of education. They have opportunity to work with disabled people in the centers in which you can find all kind of disabilities. As the Centers gathers persons with severe physical disabilities, they put into practice Adapted Physical Activity.

Spain (Pedro Ruiz):

APA improving. Universities have compulsory APA courses in the programs. National organization meets annually. INEFC has a Master's program. ISAPA organizing was a big task.

Sweden (Lars Kristen):

Swedish network started 1997 - 130 members including PE teachers, PT's and researchers. The conference and an annual meeting was held in Halmstad - for the first time a two day conference with special guest lecture from the university of Jyväskylä. Three universities began courses in APA. Halmstad university will have a one year specialization in APA in the new sports science program starting in September 2000.

France (Yves Eberhard):

56 persons are regularly involved in the national APA organization in France. They have involved along this year the functioning of their board with different coordinators of missions. Two meetings for APA promotion this year. Further developments planned.

Lithuania (Ruta Adomaitiene):

Tempus-program changed the situation very much. There are about 100 students in APA studies and 87 professionals in different organizations. The APA conference was held in Kaunas, May 1999. The National policy of social integration of disabled formulated in accordance with the Lithuanian legal acts is based on super medicalized-individual model of disability

Czech Republic (Hana Valkova):

All universities under the new law (evaluations and accreditation). Local conferences, but also Prague sport psychology and Olomouch health conference - Proceedings available. Socrates program available. Participation in sport events (Special Olympics) and conferences (International PE conferences in Greece and in Slovenia. (more details from the secretary)

Austria (Maria Dinold):

Preparations for the Vienna 2001 ISAPA: 2nd Announcement will be out in Spring 2000. Invited speakers are looked for. AFAPA offers practical courses like swimming, creative movement, winter sport etc. Several research activities at the Institute of Sport Science of the University of Vienna. No APA programs in any sport universities. Cooperation with disability federations.(more details from the secretary)

Italy (Luigina Teresa Orsini, Rome):

The Committee of Experts is still carrying on its reforming activity to ensure the conversion from the former Istituto Superiore Statale di Educazione Fisica in the new Istituto Universitario di Scienze Motorie. The elaboration of the new university Statute is being carried on. Among other targets is establishing a three-year course, followed by two further years of study (master's degree). The importance will be attached to the teaching of special motor activities. (more details from the secretary)

Italy (Anna Bianco, Torino):

In general PE program APA introduced. After basic PE program opportunity to specialize. Also obligatory course for all PE teachers. Four universities have APA option. Difficult to have connections with Sport Federations.

The Netherlands (Adri Vermeer):

APA is a large concept in the Netherlands. Differences between the Polytechnical University and the University courses.

Poland (Grzegorz Rawicz-Mankowski):

The Paralympic Commission within the Olympic Committee has evolved into independent Paralympic Committee.

Finland (Pauli Rintala):

Annual meeting for APA people held. Many participated in ISAPA - Barcelona/Lleida. New Polytechnical Universities offer also APA courses. Over 30 APA specialists in PE have been graduated with the Master's degree.

4. Situation of European Degrees in Adapted Physical Activity

- 4.1 Master's Degree, EMDAPA (V+) has its ninth year finished. Over 30 students this year. There will be program changes next year - six applied modules (coordinators needed).

- 4.2 European University Degree (V) started the second year. Program is published. Third year has been approved - based on ECTS basis. 22 students enrolled for Diploma. Three seminars organized.
- 4.3 European Intensive Program: Seventh time in the university of Brussels: two week session in September and three week session in December (in French). Categorical approach in two weeks. 22 students for the degree. Intensive program is a part of the Degree.

5. Situation of the European Thematic Network

European Commission has accepted to finance the Thematic Network Project (TNP) for three years. The first forum "Educational and Social Integration of persons with a handicap through APA: a new challenge" will be held February 17-20, 2000 in Leuven. All those who signed a letter of intent to cooperate in this network have received by now more detailed information package. The aim of this network is the identification of good practice of integration in a educational and social setting.

We start this TNP in the first TNP forum which will be an informative one. Explanation on the content, aims and objectives, and the practical arrangements will be given. And secondly the participants will work together to find definitions (operationalization) for integration and formation.

One person per country is invited (the grant that which was received from the European Commission covers travel and accommodation expenses for one person a country). This person must be a member of an institution that has the intention of becoming a member of the TNP (paying the membership fee: more information in the brochure).

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the coordinators (Prof. dr. H. Van Coppinolle and Prof. dr. J-C De Potter) or the secretariat (Veerle Wouters).

6. Reports of events

6.1 Pedro Ruiz (Spain) presented the results from the 12th ISAPA conference:

- a.. Number of participants(650 participants from 45 countries)(Spain 55%, France 7,7%, Japan 6,6%, USA 4,8%).
- b.. Categories of registration (IFAPA 13%, students 32%, guests25%, scient. comm.2%, INEFC 5%).
- c.. Type of presentations (oral 184, poster 49, video 22, mini symp.15, workshop 12).
- d. Topics (PE 70%, sport medicine 48%, sport competition 48%, recreation 23%, physical fitness 41%, assessment 36%)
- e. Presentations 350 received, 266 accepted (73%).
- f.. Evaluation of the Congress. Negative: a) two venues, b) too little information before the congress, c) presenters did not come. Positive: a) structure of scientific program, b) social events, c) assistance of participants, d) information during the congress.
- g.. LAST CHALLENGE is the publication of the proceedings before Vienna 2001.

7. Forthcoming events

7.1 Maria Dinold proposed that the Symposium 2001 in Vienna could be at the same time the 13th ISAPA and the 4th European Conference on APA. An agreement of all persons who still were there was received. Having the both congresses at the same time enables to ask for money from the EU!

7.2 -7.5 Information about other conferences was spread out.

8. EARAPA objectives
Will be discussed in later meetings

9. Election of the Board for 2000-2002

The new EARAPA Board was elected by debate. It was agreed to have this election next time with a more official way and better prepared.

The seven agreed members were the following:
Herman van Coppenolle, Claire Boursier, Jean-Claude de Potter, Pauli Rintala, Christina Evaggelinou, Hana Valkova and Lars Kristen.

The Board elected within themselves president (van Coppenolle), secretary (Evaggelinou) and treasure (Boursier).

10. Next meeting

The next annual meeting will be in Leuven, 17th of December 2000.

The next unofficial meeting takes place during the Thematic Network Forum in Leuven (17 February, 2000), since most of the EARAPA key persons will attend that meeting.

11. Others

11.1 Yves Vanlandewijck (IFAPA Vice President) stated that IFAPA wishes to thank the organizers of the 12th and 13th ISAPA conferences and congratulate for their excellent organizations and hope to see all EARAPA members in the year 2001 in Vienna, Austria. He proposed that EARAPA must have a plan of action for the year 2000 and this plan should be presented during the Thematic Network meeting that will take place in Leuven on 17th of February 2000.

11.2 Nina Kahrs (Norway) wished that during the next EARAPA election (in the year 2002) a committee must prepare the elections in a more formal way.

Pauli Rintala
3.02.2000